

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 25-34 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:
~~a single at most one~~ cantilevered extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;
~~a piston and cylinder assembly~~ an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable structure; and
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.
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3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the telescopically extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the telescopically extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the tong is movably attached to the inner barrel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a clamp assembly for securing the outer barrel to the carriage.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the outer barrel is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the carriage.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable structure is disposed on the carriage.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable structure to the carriage.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clamping assembly is releasable connected to the carriage.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor actuatable to adjust the position of the extendable structure with respect to said mounting assembly.

21. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly ~~has two stages~~.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable structure.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable structure horizontally.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tong is movably attached to the extendable structure.

25-34. (Cancelled without prejudice).

35. (Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:
~~a single at most one~~ cantilevered extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;
a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure; and
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the tong is movably attached.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

38. (Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:
~~a single an~~ extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable boom;
~~a piston and cylinder assembly an actuating member~~ for extending or retracting the extendable boom; and
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable boom.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the extendable boom is telescopic.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a vertical axis.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the telescopically extendable boom comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the telescopically extendable boom further comprises an intermediate barrel.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable boom is disposed on the carriage.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable boom to the carriage.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the clamping assembly is releasably connected to the carriage.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a motor actuatable to adjust the position of the extendable boom with respect to said mounting assembly.

48. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable boom.

49. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 38 48, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable boom horizontally.

50. (Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:

a single at most one extendable beam structure, the extendable beam having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable beam structure; and a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable beam structure; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable beam structure.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tong is movably attached.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

53. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is movable in at least two planes.

54. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

55. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is movable in at least two planes.

56. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

57. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam structure is telescopic.

58. (Amended) A method of positioning a tong, comprising:
providing ~~a single~~ at most one extendable beam structure having a variable length;
attaching the tong to a first end of the extendable beam structure;
coupling a second end of the extendable beam structure to a mounting assembly; and
moving the tong from a first position to a second position.

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59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the extendable beam structure is telescopic.

Please add the following claims:

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

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61. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable beam structure.

62. (New) A tong assembly, comprising:
an extendable boom;
a tong mountable at one end of the boom;
wherein a center of mass of the tong is alignable with a longitudinal center line of the boom when the tong is mounted on the boom.

63. (New) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:
only one extendable beam structure, the extendable beam having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable beam structure;
a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable beam structure; and
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable beam structure.